

How To Be A Bubble Blowing Christian (Ezekiel 47:1-9)

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How to be a Bible blowing Christian Ezekiel 47:1-9

I can't read verse 5 without thinking about my near death experience at the river when I was 5 or 6 years old. Back

then we were going to Straight Way B.C. Back there if you had one of them tubs in your church, you were Carnal. Yes we baptized down at the river. Well after the baptizing, all the young men would swim across the TN River and jump off the rocks into the river. My Dad would join them. They were having such a good time I thought I'd join them. There I go running out into the river. Well it wasn't long till I got in a little over my head. There were waters to swim in I reckon, I haven't drowned that day. Well here in our text Ezekiel is having a similar experience that is prophetic of the millennial reign of Christ. But despite the fact of its prophetic nature, there are some practical applications that can be made to our lives concerning Ezekiel and the ever deepening River. Remember that in the Bible God the Father is likened to a fountain (Jer 17:13) God the Son is likened

I. The Guiding Path of the River^{vs 3} This river is imminently from God, and in verse 3, Ezekiel steps into this life giving stream. This represents his walk that is controlled

A. It is Submerged - This path that Ezekiel is walking is submerged in the direction in which the Spirit is leading. I'm not much of a pool guy; the boys have it and when we went to Augusta, they headed straight for the Pool. Paddy got in. I went over and put my foot in that water and snapped it right out. No way too cold for me. A lot of Christians are that way. Toe dipping.

B. It is Selfless - Ezekiel's walk was now controlled by the river. Where ever it went, he went. Ezekiel couldn't go his own way now. No he was being a Not my will but thine he done kind of Christian. He was selflessly obeying the path of the river. If you are ever going to allow the H.S. to progress you, not only are you going to have to get in and stay in, but you are going to

II. The Greater Preeminence of the River vs 4

The prophet now walks a 1000 cubits further down the river and now the waters are come up to his knees. Knees ^{us of things} remind

A. We see Submission - As we progress down this path of the Holy Spirit's leading there is a greater and greater urgency of the Spirit to seek with our lives more fully to Christ, to know the ³ knee. Phil 5:10-11. Now a bowing of the knee to the Lordship of Christ is part & parcel

1) ...God the Son is likened to a well (John 4:14), but God the Spirit is likened to a River of living water in John 7:37-39.

This river is a type of the Holy Spirit's influence on our lives and the progression of that influence as we grow in the Lord.

3) Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And his first searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

2) ...you are going to have to walk in the paths of righteousness. He will be faithful to lead you in those paths by the leading of the Holy Ghost, but are you going to walk in them? This is that self-denying path our Lord Jesus walked from the cradle in Bethlehem to a grave in Jerusalem.

3) Philippians 2:10-11 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- 1) Romans 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.
- 2) the weight of that confession and is compelled again and again to submit to the Lordship of Christ in every area of their life.

- 3) Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

to the initial work of ^①Salvation. Rom 10:9. But as the believer progresses he feels the weight of that ^②B. We See Supplication - it also reminds us of supplication. The greater role of prayer in our lives. The Holy Spirit plays an active part in our prayer life. We have not the mind of God to be able to ask the things we ought. Rom. 8:26-27. We know so little of praying in the Spirit. This Holy Spirit helpeth our infirmities and also makes intercession on our behalf according to God's will. ^③III. The Governing Power of the Loins ^{v4b}

Now we find Ezekiel is now a 1000 more cubits further down this ever deepening river. Now the waters are to the loins its force ^{belt}

A. There is Seed - In scripture the loins refer to the lower part of the back, the bending place of the whole body. The loins also refer to the source of reproductive power. We often have reference to a people being from the loins of a certain father. The Spirit guided believer will be empowered to reproduce their lives by bringing into the Kingdom of God sons & daughters.

B. There is Strength - The loins also refer to that place of power in our body. A place of strength. When you watch these football players on T.V. at the line of scrimmage they are not standing straight

up but they are held at the reins to yield a great thrust of strength. But for Ezekiel the H.S. has taken full sway of this area and now supplies power for service for bringing people to ^{Christ} _{vs 5}

IV. The Grand Purpose of the River

Ezekiel is taken down that last 1000 cubits and comes to a point to which I believe God the Holy Ghost wants to bring us all.

A. Complete Saturation - Ezekiel's feet have now left the ground. His body is completely saturated. Filled, consumed by the rushing waters of the Spirit of God. You know, when a person is swimming usually all you see is their head. The same is true with the Spirit Filled believer, all that is seen by the world is just the head, and our head is Christ. Acts 4:13

B. Complete Surrender - When a person swims they are surrendered to the water wholly and completely. There's no holding on and holding back. The whole body is at the mercy of the flow of the River. We are then brought along by the Spirit, lifted up by the Spirit, Blessed by the Spirit of God. The result of all this is cleansing and fruitfulness, ^{our lives} in

V. Closing - No matter how deep you want to go with God, there is plenty of opportunity. Just as old song says, Step into the water made out

1) Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

2) ...wade out a little bit deeper...Warren Wiersby said "It's tragic that too many linger in the shallows when they could be enjoying the depths." How long are you going to be a toe dipping Christian?